



North Carolina Agricultural Development & Farmland Preservation Trust Fund *Newsletter*



North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Steve Troxler, Commissioner



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New Online Grant Application

This year, the ADFP Trust Fund created an online application for the submission of requests for proposals. The development of the online application addresses several needs, including reducing paperwork, improving the efficiency of the grant application process, fewer submitted errors by applicants, reducing time and effort for sorting and filing by staff and streamlining the application scoring process.

Our staff continuously works to improve service to farmers, landowners and partners. A survey will be made available to applicants who completed a Cycle VIII application in early 2015.

Cycle VIII Grant Application Period is Open; Deadline is December 19

County governments and nonprofit groups pursuing farmland preservation projects have until Dec. 19 to apply for funding assistance. This year's request for proposals includes statewide general appropriations and \$1 million for military base and training buffers.

The statewide general appropriations are anticipated future appropriations. The military buffer funds are from the 2014-2015 budget and must be contracted and encumbered by June 15, 2015. The military buffer funds must be matched with federal dollars on an equal or greater basis.

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Grants application, continued from page 1

The fund's purpose is to support projects that encourage the preservation of qualifying agricultural, horticultural and forest lands to foster the growth, development and sustainability of family farms.

Grants can be awarded to secure agricultural conservation easements on lands used for agricultural production; to support public and private enterprise programs that promote profitable and sustainable agricultural, horticultural and forestland activities; and for the development of agricultural plans.

The grant application and guidelines for the current funding cycle are available at www.ncadfp.org/CycleVIII.htm. Call 919-707-3071 with any questions. Applications are due by 5 p.m. on Dec. 19.

Farmland Preservation Workshops Recap

The ADFP Trust Fund recently held six workshops across the state for those interested in protecting local agricultural lands. The ADFP Trust Fund collaborated with the state USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service staff to host these workshops.

The Farmland Preservation workshops targeted non-profit conservation organizations and county agencies. Farmers, landowners and others interested in the preservation of working lands were also encouraged to attend. The workshops are highly recommended for all past, present or potential recipients of federal and/or state grants associated with farmland preservation.

The workshops were held in Catawba, Duplin, Guilford, Haywood, Martin and Richmond counties.

ADFP Trust Fund Upcoming Events

The ADFP Trust Fund will have a booth at the NC Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts Annual Meeting. The NCASWCD Annual Meeting will be held Jan. 4-6 at the Four Seasons Sheraton in Greensboro. For more information, please visit: www.ncagr.gov/SWC/professional_development/NCASWCDAnnualMeeting.html.

The ADFP Trust Fund will also have a booth at the 2015 Southern Farm Show, February 4-6, at the State Fairgrounds in Raleigh.

The ADFP Trust Fund staff will be working with the state Voluntary Agricultural Districts leadership group to plan upcoming workshops and outreach for 2015. Please check our website www.ncadfp.org for more information.

For the latest news on the ADFP Trust Fund, please visit:
www.ncadfp.org/news.htm